

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph E. Maenner on 10/10/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Delete claim 10 and replace it with the following.

10. A stent-graft comprising:

a stent disposed around an exterior portion of a graft

said graft comprising:

an inner layer of a non-porous material; and

an outer layer of knitted, woven, or braided material laminated to said inner layer, wherein said outer layer includes a plurality of fastening elements extending outwardly from said outer layer along a length of said outer layer of said tubular graft, wherein each of the plurality of fastening elements comprises a closed loop penetrating through-said outer layer in no more than two locations, at least some of said fastening elements

Art Unit: 3738

positioned to extend between elements of the stent when said stent is surrounding said graft; and;
a locking element coupled to the stent and to the fastening element of the graft, wherein the locking element does not pass through the graft.

In claim 15 delete the phrase –and entirely within said space—from lines 15 and 16.

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 3, 9, 17, 22, and 23, directed to species 2 non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 3, 9, 17, 22, and 23 have been cancelled.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the art of record alone or in combination discloses a stent surrounding and attached to a graft, wherein the graft comprises two layers sandwiching a continuous ring that is then secured to the stent by a fastening member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3738

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER D. PRONE whose telephone number is (571)272-6085. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Fri 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571) 272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Christopher D Prone
Examiner
Art Unit 3738

/Christopher D Prone/

/Corrine M McDermott/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3738

Art Unit: 3738